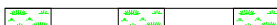


## Non –Structural Low Impact Development Controls

### Vegetated Conveyance Systems

#### Plan Symbol



#### Description

Vegetated conveyances are designed and installed as an alternative to curb and gutter and hard piping storm water conveyance systems. Open vegetated conveyances improve water quality by providing partial pollutant removal as water is filtered by the vegetation and by the opportunity to infiltrate into the soil. Open vegetated conveyances also are designed to reduce flow velocities when compared to hard piping systems.

#### When and Where to Use It

Open vegetated conveyance systems are incorporated into moderate to low density development sites where land is available and where the land surface is gently sloping (less than 5 percent). The soil must be able to withstand the design tractive forces and flow velocities of the open conveyance, or an applicable

#### Installation

Construct vegetated conveyances with trapezoidal or parabolic cross section with relatively flat side slopes (flatter than 3H:1V).

Install a flat bottom between 2 and 8 feet wide.

During construction, it is important to stabilize the channel before the turf has been established, either with a temporary grass cover or with the use of natural or synthetic erosion control products.

### Inspection and Maintenance

- The useful life of a vegetated swale system is directly proportional to its maintenance frequency. If properly designed and regularly maintained, vegetated swales can last indefinitely.
- The maintenance objectives for vegetated swale systems include keeping up the hydraulic and removal efficiency of the channel and maintaining a dense, healthy grass cover.
- Maintenance includes periodic mowing (with grass never cut shorter than the design flow depth), weed control, watering during drought conditions, re-seeding of bare areas, and clearing of debris and blockages.
- Remove accumulated sediment manually to avoid the transport of resuspended sediments in periods of low flow and to prevent a damming effect from sand bars. Minimize the application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Repair damaged areas within a channel.
- Inspect for a healthy thick grass cover. Re-seed as necessary.

## **Stream Buffers**

### Description

A stream buffer is an area along a shoreline, wetland or stream where development is restricted or prohibited. The primary function of the buffer is to physically protect and separate a stream, lake, or wetland from future disturbance or encroachment.

The general function of the buffer is to:

- Protect the overall stream quality by providing shade for the stream and provide wildlife habitat.
- Remove pollutants, sediments, bacteria, and excess nutrients from storm water runoff through infiltration and filtering.
- Help detain and slow down flow rates from developed areas.

- Provide a setback from the stream to prevent damage to structures or improved property due to flooding or changes in the stream channel.

### When and Where to Use It

Effective water quality protection stream buffers consist of undisturbed natural vegetation including maintaining the original tree line along the stream or channel banks. Promptly stabilize disturbed buffers with a dense cover of strong rooted grasses, native plants, and native trees.

### Buffer Maintenance

An effective buffer management plan includes establishment, management, and distinctions of allowable and unallowable uses in each Zone. Buffer boundaries are well defined and clearly marked during, and after construction is complete. Buffers designed to capture storm water runoff from urban areas require more maintenance if the first zone is designated as a bioretention or other engineered depression area.

## **Disconnected Rooftop Drainage to Pervious Areas**

### Description

Disconnected rooftop drainage reduces the runoff flow rates from developed areas. The disconnection involves directing storm water runoff from rooftops towards pervious areas where it is allowed to filter through vegetation and other landscaped material and infiltrate into the soil. Use erosion control devices such as splash blocks or level spreaders at the downspout discharge point to transfer the flow from concentrated flow to sheet flow.

Disconnected rooftop drainage has the following benefits:

- Increase the time of concentration by disconnecting runoff from any structural storm water drainage systems.

- Provide water quality benefits by allowing runoff to infiltrate into the soil. Downspouts from rooftops should discharge to gently sloping, well-vegetated areas, vegetated filter strips, or bio-retention areas.

### When and Where to Use It

This practice is applicable and most beneficial in low-density residential or commercial developments having less than 50 percent impervious area. Disconnection is not applicable to large buildings where the volume of runoff from the rooftops will cause erosion or degradation to receiving vegetated areas.

## Cluster Development

### Description

Cluster development practices concentrate development away from environmentally sensitive areas such as streams, wetlands, and mature wooded areas. The clustering of development in one area reduces the amount of roadways, sidewalks, and drives required when compared to development sprawled over the entire land area.

<sup>3</sup> Install clustering and conservation of natural area practices at least to some extent on all development sites not only to reduce the impacts to natural resources by minimizing disturbance and impervious areas, but also to maintain some of the natural beauty of the site.

Reducing the amount of disturbed area and impervious area reduces the amount of runoff volume treated for water quantity and water quality control. Concentrating development away from environmentally sensitive areas will also reduce the amount of time and expenses to get federal and state permits for impacting jurisdictional waters.

Concentrate development on the flattest part of the development parcel away from environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes, streams, and wetlands. This reduces the impacts to these areas, and reduces the amount of earth moving necessary for the development.

### **Natural Infiltration**

Natural infiltration is a method in which an undisturbed land area covered with natural vegetation accepts runoff from new development and infiltrates the runoff into the soil.

#### **When and Where to Use It**

Use natural infiltration areas only where the soils are suitable. The area is typically in a forested condition with the land surface covered by leaves, pine needles, and other forest floor organic materials. Natural infiltration areas are designated for passive recreation only.